
MASTER PLANNING NEWS

GOVERNOR THOMPSON STATE PARK

PESHTIGO RIVER STATE FOREST

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Comments Received on Proposed Vision and Goals Statements

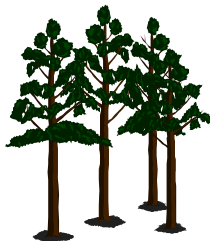
In the November 2002 Master Planning Newsletter, the proposed Vision and Goals Statements for both Governor Thompson State Park and the Peshtigo River State Forest were presented to you for the first time.

Many of you have been helpful in sharing your suggestions on how you would like to see the both the Vision statement and Goals appear. Thank you for taking the time to contribute to the planning process!

As your comments were received, they were recorded and organized into categories, depending upon the topic that they addressed. Then, after a substantial review from the Master Planning Team, your comments pertaining to the Vision and Goals statements were incorporated, as much as possible, into the proposed Vision and Goals statements. The revised Vision and Goals statements now more accurately reflect the opinions of the community and the Department. (Please see the Revised Draft Vision and Goals shown on page 2.) Some of your comments included:

Governor Thompson State Park

- *"Keep the area somewhat secluded."*
- *"Please consider adding horse trails and camping."*
- *"Do not create too many motorized trails."*



Peshtigo River State Forest

- *"Hunting, especially for small game species should be a priority."*
- *"...retain the natural scenic beauty of the shoreline, and not allow over development."*
- *"Non-motorized primitive camping."*
- *"Keep the snowmobile trails intact."*
- *"Promote early successional forest types."*

Management Alternatives to Be Discussed at Next Public Meetings

A major topic of discussion at the next public meetings on **April 15th & April 16th, 2003** will be the recently developed Preliminary Management Alternatives for designed for Gov. Thompson State Park. Over the last few weeks, members of the Master Planning Team have been investigating various potential management strategies to be incorporated on Gov. Thompson State Park. These strategies include vegetative management alternatives, recreation (development) alternatives, and boundary alternatives. They provide options for forestry, recreation, and wildlife management and development and aim to combine expert opinion with public input. As always, a property can't be "all things to all people." The potential alternative plans will be mailed in early April 2003. You are encouraged to study and then comment on these alternatives during the upcoming public meetings. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you may send comments via letters or email.

When speaking with potential park users, some issues and patterns were obvious:

- *Keep the small lakes non-motorized*
- *Keep the shorelines natural appearing.*
- *Help solve the "problem" of Ranch Rd. snowmobile and ATV trails.*
- *Study the feasibility and placement of horse trails and horse camping facilities.*
- *Consider deer hunting to manage the herd size*
- *Camping is important.*
- *Water access is desired.*

These Revised Draft Vision and Goal Statements shown below can be modified if needed during the planning process, until the time when the Natural Resources Board approves the Master Plan.

Revised Draft Vision Statement and Goals Governor Thompson State Park

Vision Statement

Governor Thompson State Park provides opportunities for public recreation and education in a rustic, forested setting. The park and its resources are managed for present and future generations to provide a broad range of ecological, cultural, social and economic benefits within its capabilities. The generally undeveloped and scenic character of the shorelines and forested uplands provide the State Park an atmosphere of solitude, reflection and learning while promoting the continued tradition of a statewide system of parks and open spaces. The park provides the best possible service to park visitors and its partners.

Goals

1. Provide and maintain a variety of high quality native communities and habitats within the ecological capabilities of the site for public enjoyment, education and ecological benefits.
2. Identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species and areas of geological, archaeological and cultural significance.
3. Manage shoreline zones for a natural appearance and the protection and enhancement of aquatic resources.
4. Provide a variety of seasonal and year-round camping opportunities in partnership with nearby county and private campgrounds.
5. Provide a range of seasonal and year-round non-motorized recreational opportunities that preserve the atmosphere of solitude, reflection and learning, with facilities ranging from primitive to comfortable rustic-styled modern.
6. Establish compatible, mutually supportive programs and infrastructure with the Peshtigo River State Forest and other partners for resource protection, education and recreation management.
7. Provide recreational access to Caldron Falls Flowage, Woods Lake and Huber Lake.
8. Prevent or minimize conflict among different types of recreational uses and among various types of park uses and park management activities.
9. Acquire additional land for reasons of resource protection, critical development needs, access, boundary protection, boundary continuity, or protection from non-compatible uses.
10. Limit overall park development to no more than 15% of the total area.
11. Manage the deer herd on the property when necessary by controlled hunting methods.

Revised Draft Vision Statement and Goals Peshtigo River State Forest

Vision Statement

The Peshtigo River State Forest is a healthy, dynamic forest, which contributes to the diversity of natural communities in the region. The forest and its resources are managed for present and future generations to provide a broad range of ecological, cultural, social and economic benefits within its capabilities. The natural scenic beauty of the Peshtigo River and its flowages is perpetuated by maintaining a predominately undeveloped shoreline. Compatible recreational opportunities are provided consistent with the scenic beauty and natural settings found within its forestland and along the river and its flowages.

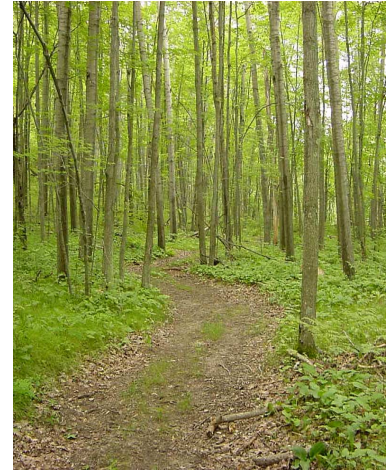
Goals

1. Manage the forest and its resources using principles of ecosystem management and sustainable forestry consistent with the ecological capability of the land.
2. Identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species and areas of geological, archaeological, or cultural significance.
3. Maintain and enhance the natural, undeveloped scenic qualities of the state forest, especially those areas visible from the Peshtigo River and its flowages.
4. Protect and enhance the aquatic resources of the forest.
5. Provide a variety of quality outdoor recreational activities with a focus on non-motorized trail uses, primitive camping, and water access.
6. Continue links with the existing regional motorized trail network while maintaining environmental quality and harmony with other forest users.
7. Establish compatible, mutually supportive programs and infrastructure with Governor Thompson State Park and other partners for resource protection, education and recreation management.
8. Prevent or minimize conflict among different types of recreational uses and among various types of forest uses and management activities.
9. Acquire additional land for reasons of resource protection, critical development needs, access, boundary protection, boundary continuity, or protection from non-compatible uses.
10. Provide opportunities and access for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing.
11. Provide for a variety of renewable forest products, wildlife habitats and a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic communities consistent with the ecological capabilities of the land and water.

Recent Master Planning Meetings

Peshtigo River State Forest, Dec. 19th 2002

TOWN OF LAKE. An introductory meeting addressing master planning of the Peshtigo River State Forest was held December 19th, 2002 in the Town of Lake near Crivitz. Vierbicher & Associates invited DNR to participate in this meeting to explain the state's process and involvement in the master planning for the Potato Rapids unit of the Peshtigo River State Forest. Vierbicher & Associates is the Comprehensive Planning consultant for three local town governments - Lake, Porterfield and Middle Inlet. DNR representative Dan Rogers conducted a brief master plan presentation describing the habitat and landscape of the Peshtigo River State Forest. A question and answer period followed the presentation. Questions such as "How much tree harvesting will occur within the State Forest?" and "How will the unique concerns of the people living near Potato Rapids be addressed?" and others were addressed by Rogers.



*Cross Country Ski Trail in Summer
(Gov. Thompson State Park)*

Core/Expanded Team Meeting, January 14th 2003

GREEN BAY. The Core and Expanded members of the Master Planning Team met January 14th 2003 at the DNR's Northeast Region Headquarters. The meeting was conducted in order to update members on the recently proposed Vision and Goals Statements and the progress of the Master Planning Process. During the meeting, the proposed Vision statement and Goals for both Governor Thompson State Park and the Peshtigo River State Forest were distributed in addition to vegetative and development design alternatives. The vegetative and developmental design alternatives were recently compiled by two Master Planning Team members for the purpose of encouraging discussion regarding the potential development uses and vegetation management goals for the State Park. These alternatives are in the initial stages of development and will be presented for public comment at the upcoming public meetings.

Park Subcommittee/Upper Green Bay Basin Partners Meeting, January 27th 2003

CRIVITZ. Department of Natural Resources Master Planning Core and Expanded team members met with the Upper Green Bay Basin Partners January 27th 2003 at the Peshtigo Service Center. The meeting was held to collaborate the ideas of the Upper Green Bay Basin Partners (a group of public participants representing a variety of groups such as the Audubon Society and snowmobile clubs) with the ideas of the Core and Expanded Master Planning Teams. Recent progress pertaining to the Vision and Goals Statements and the ten-step process required to finalize them was also discussed at the meeting. Specific suggestions and corrections regarding wording and general meaning of the Vision and Goals were also generated through discussion at this meeting.



State Park Manger Position

The Park Manager position at Governor Thompson State Park is currently vacant. The position will be filled as soon as possible, however, the exact date is not known. **Arnie Lindauer**, DNR Regional Parks Program Manager for the Department, is acting as Park Manager. He will answer questions you may have and can be reached at the Northeast Region Headquarters in Green Bay, WI, 1125 N Military Av, PO Box 10448, Green Bay WI, 54307-0448. Please contact him at (920) 492-5851 or by email at: lindaa@dnr.state.wi.us.

What is Ecosystem Management?



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You've probably heard and read the term Ecosystem Management in some of our master planning information recently. What does this really mean and what difference does it make to our master planning for Governor Thompson State Park and the Peshtigo River State Forest? In our recent work on Vision and Goals for these two properties, phrases like "...within the capabilities of the site..." and "...consistent with the ecological capabilities of the land..." have been used a lot. These words seem to describe some kind of harmony with the natural resources of the land we're dealing with.

Harmony is a major concept when talking about ecosystem management. Wisconsin is a state with a many different landscape types and these types have a pattern to them, depending on what type of bedrock, soil, slope, vegetation and water features are present. These factors all work together to give a particular landscape its unique characteristics.

The most basic guiding principle of ecosystem management is this: "*Everything is connected.*" Ecologically, socially, and economically. How, then, does this apply to our master plans? The various landscapes of Wisconsin have been studied and classified as to their Ecological Landscape type. The part of Marinette County in which these properties are located is known as the *Northeast Sands*. Examples of other Ecological Landscapes are Southeast Glacial Plains, North Central Forest and Western Prairie. There are sixteen types altogether in Wisconsin.

Master planning for any property should harmonize with the ecological landscape in which it is located. When considering the various management alternatives for the property we review the characteristics of the ecological, social and economic landscape and evaluate the opportunities and resources available. We attempt to determine if the actions we are proposing will help maintain and restore the communities of the region. If our actions are in harmony with the local ecosystem, they will protect or improve the functioning of that system. Ecosystem management is a method of decision-making that considers the consequences of our proposed actions on the land, society and the economy.



Winter -Governor Thompson State Park

Don't Forget! We are also on the WEB! For current information and newsletters regarding Gov. Thompson State Park, the Peshtigo River State Forest, and the latest DNR headlines please visit: www.dnr.state/master_planning.

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Governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest Master Planning News - February 2003